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Jie Yang
IT Director of PICC Guangdong Division

SYSTIMAX® Solutions

PICC Group Invests in CommScope Network Infrastructure for its Data Center in South China

China’s Leading Insurance Company connects 20,000 outlets via SYSTIMAX® LazrSPEED®, GigaSPEED® X10D, TeraSPEED® and InstaPATCH® Solutions

The PICC Group (People’s Insurance Company of China Group) has been China’s biggest insurance company since 1949. Today, it has 5,750 branches, including 80 outside of China, employing a total of more than 110,000 people.

To support its fast-growing business, the company began work on a new data center in mid 2010. This forms part of PICC's new, 134 hectare campus of South China Information Center within the Nanhai Foshan Hi-tech Service Zone in Guangdong. The \$250 million campus, which also includes an e-business center, a call centre and a customer service centre, is providing jobs for 2,000 employees.

Network infrastructure in the new data center is among the largest and most sophisticated of its type in China. To build it, PICC needed a supplier that could deliver solutions with world-class technology backed by industry leading guarantees and support services. It chose CommScope.

CommScope's SYSTIMAX Solutions offered the high performance required by the data center and have a strong track record of success in similar applications. The specific solutions chosen include LazrSPEED fiber cabling and GigaSPEED X10D copper cabling. PICC also selected SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH pre-terminated trunk cables to ensure reliable high performance and reduce installation time.

This combination of solutions, together with SYSTIMAX TeraSPEED singlemode fiber, supports the very high data traffic across the site and in the data center. Applications supported by the network include the call center, Voice over IP, storage area networks, video services, audio links and CCTV as well as local area networks.

"The new data center is mission critical for our business, and its network is vital in achieving the highest levels of dependability," said Mr. Jie Yang, IT Director of PICC Guangdong Division. "So we must have infrastructure solutions that deliver reliability, flexibility, security and high performance. CommScope and SYSTIMAX are brands we know we can rely on – their quality and reliability has been proven in many data centers throughout China."

Other SYSTIMAX data center installations in Chinese financial institutions include ones at the Bank of Shanghai, Bank of China, China Merchants Bank, Ping An Insurance and the Guangdong Development Bank. In each case, CommScope provided an integrated solution with guaranteed end-to-end compatibility and performance.

At the new PICC data center of South China, CommScope worked with its BusinessPartner, Taiji Computer Corporation Ltd of Beijing. Together, the companies designed, planned and managed installation of the campus and data center network infrastructures.

An installation team of more than 200 people was deployed during the project. In total they installed more than 270km of LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen) Category 6A, GigaSPEED X10D 3091 cable. More than 25km of LazrSPEED 300 Plenum cable was also installed.

The SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED X10D Solution comfortably exceeds the full specifications of the Category 6A/Class E_A connectivity standards. It can support data transmission speeds of up to 10Gb/s over a 100metre link including up to six connectors.

The LazrSPEED 300 multimode fiber solution exceeds the OM3 standard for fiber connections. Its laser-optimized design supports 10Gb/s data transmission over distances up to 300 metres without the need for expensive single mode electronics.

Copper and fiber cabling across the campus is connected via 32 communications rooms. These house more than 2,200 24-port SYSTIMAX PATCHMAX® GS5 modular patch panels.

Communications rooms are connected to the data center via more than 60km of SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH Plus trunk cable. The high density, factory terminated and tested InstaPATCH Plus System is a modular fiber connectivity solution that allows installers to connect components more quickly. As many as 96 fibers can be ready for service in the time it takes to make a single fiber connection using traditional methods.

Commenting on the choice of pre-terminated trunk cables, Mr Jie Yang said: "For the new data center network, we required high-density, rapid deployment and high performance. Using the InstaPATCH Plus System with LazrSPEED multimode and TeraSPEED singlemode fiber gave us all these things.

"The modular design of The InstaPATCH System and the rest of the SYSTIMAX network infrastructure also gives us flexibility to change and grow in response to future needs."

Another key requirement for the network physical layer was fire safety. This was met using the LSZH version of the GigaSPEED X10D Solution. PICC also specified OFNP (Optical Fiber Non-conductive Plenum) versions of the LazrSPEED and TeraSPEED Solutions that are certified for use in air-handling ducts.

The completed network infrastructure is now one of the safest and most advanced of any in China. Its size and combination of advanced technologies is exceptional but, by using their previous data center experience and maintaining good communication with the customer, CommScope and Taiji Computer Corporation met the challenge.

"Every aspect of this very large project had to meet the highest standards," said Laura Chen, Regional Sales Director of Greater China, CommScope. "Performance, reliability, flexibility and security were all critical. With the combination of solutions in CommScope's portfolio, we were able to satisfy all these needs. The installation is a showpiece for what we can achieve with our combination of technology, expertise and experience."



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